GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2523
ANSWERED ON:31.07.2002
CLOSING DOWN OF ATOMIC UNIT IN RAJASTHAN
JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of days in a year on which the atomic power unit in Kota city of Rajasthan remains shut;

(b) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to streamline the said unit; and

(c) whether the Government are also setting up or propose to set up an Atomic unit at any other place in Rajasthan State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINIST OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE)

(a) & (b) : Out of four nuclear power reactor Units at Rajasthan, three units, the Rajasthan Atomic Power Station (RAPS) Unit 2 (200 MWe), RAPS-3 (220 MWe) and RAPS-4 (220 MWe) are operated by the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd., on commercial basis. These units have performed well, recording high availability factors (percentage time that the units were connected to the grid and operating). The availability factors achieved for these units during the financial year 2001-02 are:

UNIT	Availability Factor
RAPS - 2	86%
RAPS - 3	79%
RAPS - 4	83%

NPCIL expects to further improve the performance of these Units by reducing the planned outage period and the number of forced outages, by enhanced predictive and preventive maintenance of equipment/components

RAPS-1, which is the first Pressurised Heavy Water Reactor (PHWR) unit in the country, owned by the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) and operated by the NPCIL, has been shut down with effect from 30/4/02 on the expiry of its regulatory licence. In-service inspection and evaluation for safety upgrades including possible en-masse coolant channel replacement are in progress. Based on this approach of NPCIL, and its review and clearance by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB), further course of action for continued operation of this unit will emerge.

(c) & (d) : Two units each of 220 MWe (RAPP - 5 & 6) are presently under construction at Rawatbhata, Rajasthan (near the existing RAPS - 1 to 4 Units) and are scheduled for commercial operation in August 2007 and February 2008 respectively.